



Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Law Enforcement Section

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Public Information Release

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DWR Officers Assist in Daggett County Search and Rescue Effort

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Daggett County-

On August 12th and 13th conservation officers with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources assisted with the search for a 12-year old boy scout who had become separated from his troop in a remote Daggett County location. Wildlife Officers were primarily tasked with setting up the search grid and coordinating volunteer efforts.

Jared Ropelato was fishing with his scout troop near Daggett Lake when he tried to return to his camp, but took the wrong trail. Authorities were subsequently notified and a search was initiated. Search efforts were called off at sunset but resumed in full-force the following morning. Aided by dozens of volunteers, searchers located Ropelato at approximately 8:30 am on August 13th.



Utah's Uinta Mountains are remote and rugged.

Ropelato utilized training he had received during previous scout camps to keep himself warm over night. He found a large tree, cleared out a hollow beneath it, constructed a lean-to of tree limbs and covered himself with leaves and dirt.

When asked about his experiences, he said he was afraid of being lost but mostly of the moose he had encountered. Ropelato states that he will go camping again, but his mother, Dawn Ropelato states that the next time he goes camping, he will carry a whistle.

Due to the quick response of citizen volunteers and all involved, this episode has a happy ending. Utah conservation officers strongly recommend that outdoor recreators be prepared for the unexpected, particularly when venturing into the backcountry.

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